



## Changes In The American West Photographs As Primary Sources



A theme for our Frontier unit is “change.” Today we will look at photographs from the American West to examine how life in the West changed during the late 1800s. Our history class wiki page includes links to two websites that feature original photos of the frontier. In class, use your laptops and the links to complete the four steps below:

### Step 1:

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1. Go to the history class wiki page. Browse through the photographs on the websites. Look at some pictures about farming, towns, law, daily life, travel, soldiers, etc. Be sure to examine at least ten photos before choosing one.
2. **Select one photograph that illustrates an important change (or changes) in the West during the 1800s.** Go on to Step 2.

### Step 2:

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1. Copy your chosen photo and paste it into a Microsoft Word document. If necessary, reduce the size of the image so it fits neatly on the page. Go on to Step 3.

### Step 3:

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Using your chosen photograph, answer these questions. Type your answers in Word underneath the photo. Be sure to put your name and date at the top of the page.

1. What organization produced this website? Why would this organization be interested in offering web material such as this?
2. What is the number and/or name of the photograph you chose?
3. Who is the photographer? When was the picture taken?
4. Describe in two or three sentences what is pictured in this photo.
5. What important things related to the topic are *not* pictured in this photo?
6. Why did you choose this photograph?
7. Thinking question: **Think of two questions about the photograph** that you would ask someone else to teach them about **a change in the West**. Your questions should lead another student to think more deeply about changes on the Frontier. One question can be about specific details of the photo, and the other should be about the idea of change (change in farming, in ranching, in technology, in mining, in government policy, etc.)

Example:

1. According to this photograph, what tools did cowboys use to build a business in ranching?
2. What does this photograph suggest about how the business of cattle raising was changing and becoming controlled by even larger ranches?

### Step 4:

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1. Print your Word document to the classroom printer, “Penny Lane.” Allow yourself enough time to print, and make sure it prints before leaving class.